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ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
of the
ISLE OF WIGHT.

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.
Tel. : Newport 2261.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1960.

The Birth Rate fell from 13.5 to 12.0.

The Still Birth Rate rose from 16.6 to 31.9.

The Death Rate fell from 13.7 to 12.9.

The Infantile Mortality Rate rose from 16.9 to 37.7 but where such small numbers are concerned this is of no great significance.

The number of deaths from cancer fell from 40 to 36.

For the third year in succession the number of deaths from cancer of the breast was 2.

Heart disease was certified as the cause of death in 76 cases compared with 79 the previous year.

During the year only one case of suicide was reported.

There was no death from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, meningitis or poliomyelitis.

This year only 4 cases of food poisoning were notified.

During the year it was not necessary to invoke powers under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

Environmental Influences—Past and Present.

The earliest activities in public health practice were concentrated on removing damaging influences from the environment. The primary steps were to control water supplies and sewage disposal. However, as the field of vision broadened other noxious influences were recognised and the public health department began to concern itself with related factors such as the houses in which we live and more recently with the air that we breathe.

The control of cholera and other major infectious diseases could be engineered because the lines of attack were made progressively clear ; but no simple significant factor is known in the field of the latest, and perhaps the greatest challenge—the causation of mental ill-health.

Some of our knowledge of development in the child points to factors which are believed to have great significance. To deprive an infant of a continuous relationship with the mother or mother figure increases his chance of mental illness in later life. Broadfront, impersonal means of prevention are, however, of no value in this field.

Each infant is an individual personal problem which only individual action can solve.

Health Education.

There are certain limits, ill defined though they be, beyond which it would be unwise to proceed in the matter of health education. That medical subjects hold a certain fascination for the general public is clearly shown by the astronomical viewer figures for Emergency Ward 10 and similar programmes but it is more than doubtful if these figures reflect any enormous interest in health education. As in other fields of mass information the story with an obvious moral is not popular

but masked propaganda skilfully wrapped up in an 'Emergency' type of programme often sinks into the unconscious and the message is skilfully and painlessly driven home.

Cigarette Smoking.

The general public is more than a little bewildered at the material presented to them on this subject. On the one hand the medical profession is warning them of the dire consequences of the habit while the advertising world is spending a fortune on urging them to smoke more.

If the medical evidence is conclusive then cigarette smoking should be regarded as more dangerous than the taking of so-called dangerous drugs.

How do the deaths from barbiturate or even morphine addiction compare with the deaths from lung cancer? And it is not lung cancer alone which is believed to be related to cigarette smoking. Far commoner, of course, is the smoker's cough, the chronic bronchitis due to the products of the burning cigarette. These fits of coughing can be very damaging to the heart and even to the blood vessels of the brain.

There is an age limit for the sale of cigarettes to children. This law was introduced when the dangerous effects of smoking were not known.

Now that the cigarette is the target of so much scientific abuse, cigarettes may be bought from a slot machine which presumably even in this electronic age, is not yet capable of estimating the age of the customer.

Problem Families.

Even with the social services on hand it is extremely difficult to handle many of these cases. One of the principal causes in the creation of these families is the low mentality of the parents.

In one case the bedrooms of the house were found in an appalling state. The floor was covered with human excreta, urine and vomit. No attempt had been made to clear this up. Dirty sheets and old clothes lay piled in a corner of the room. The air throughout the house was in consequence foul. All attempts to help have proved useless. Gifts of mattresses, clothing and rubber sheets had been ruined and rendered useless within six months.

The state of children reared in these conditions can well be imagined.

As one studies these families the enormous mistake of forcing a pregnant girl to marry the father of her child to save bringing disgrace on the family stands out clearly.

With no bond of affection tensions are created either overt or covert. Even worse may be the growing state of indifference. Flights into alcohol become more or less permanent and conceptions occur during a drunken state with the consequence that in such cases an unwanted child is born each year. The father finds himself unable to keep a job owing to his basic immaturity aggravated by alcohol.

Mother drifts into drudgery and the conditions in the home deteriorate. They are undesirable tenants and slide into poorer and poorer accommodation with progressive overcrowding. The children, who in spite of everything are usually devoted to their parents, may have to be taken into care from time to time, during severe social crises.

The Aged.

The growing problem of the care of old people, especially those living alone, is a major challenge to the social services.

One of the difficulties is locating those in need of help, another is the even greater one of persuading the individual to accept help.

These good people are mostly fiercely independent and resent "interference" even when they are almost on their last legs. Enormous amount of tact and special understanding is needed in dealing with these cases.

It is not possible and indeed it is not wise *to impose* the available services on the aged.

Much improvement can be made by frequent visits of qualified persons who have wide experience with the special problems of the aged. But it is usually best for only one person to visit. Multiple visits from workers in different departments are to be abhorred as unnecessary.

Many of the old persons suffer from anaemia and nutritional disorders because they cannot be bothered to prepare a proper meal, especially for one person.

But this is not always the case. One health visitor was asked by the private general practitioner to call on one of his cases. This was a man of 80 years who was furious at a nurse from "the Health" calling on him. At the time of the visit the 'patient' was plucking a chicken to have for his dinner. It was true that he had a heart disorder but he lived in a nice cottage in a very comfortable state, not too tidy, with a neat garden and a few chickens. He looked after himself, his house and his garden well.

"When I feel a bit funny, I lie down on the bed. Sometimes I lie down a few times a day. But I don't want any help. Don't you come calling here again dear, I don't need you."

Holiday Camps and Caravan Sites.

Holiday camps and caravan sites continue to grow in the Rural District. In the Colwell area disturbing pollution of the beach occurs which is aggravated by the growing holiday population served.

The Council have been aware of the problem for many years and have made many sincere but frustrated attempts to remedy the conditions which are worse at peak holiday periods.

The Rural District Council are to be congratulated on the really superb special housing accommodation which they have provided and continue to supply for the aged in the area.

The Council receive, from time to time, requests from various sources for the provision of public conveniences. Each request is considered in great detail and wherever at all possible the requests have been acceded to.

May I again place on record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support, and to Messrs. C. V. Smith and L. J. Lewis and their staff for their unfailing co-operation. Mr. W. G. Clarke, my Secretary at County Hall also receives my appreciation for his loyalty and diligence.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1960.

Medical Officer of Health :—

John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors :—

C. V. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.R.D.C.S.
L. J. Lewis, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Population (Registrar General's figures) | 17,660 |
| Area (in acres) | 58,127 |
| Number of habitable houses end of 1960 | 6,687 |
| Rateable Value, as at 1st April, 1960 | £241,316 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate (1959-60) | £970 |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

| | |
|--|------|
| Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | 12.0 |
| Comparative factor | 1.15 |
| Comparative Birth rate | 13.8 |
| Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) | 31.9 |
| Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | 12.9 |
| Comparative factor | 0.74 |
| Comparative Death rate | 9.5 |
| Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 (live and still births) | Nil |
| Death rate of infants under one year of age :— | |
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 37.7 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births | 35.3 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 71.4 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 36 |

Births.

The total number of live births was 212 of which 198 were legitimate and 14 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 12.0 per 1,000 living ; the birth rate for England and Wales being 17.1.

Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 37.7 per 1,000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 21.9.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths was 228 which gives a death rate of 12.9 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| <i>Cause.</i> | <i>Male.</i> | <i>Female.</i> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory | — | — |
| Tuberculosis, other | — | — |
| Syphilitic disease | — | 1 |
| Diphtheria | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — |
| Meningococcal infections | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — |
| Measles | — | — |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases ... | — | — |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 3 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... | 8 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | — | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | — | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 8 | 12 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | — | 1 |
| Diabetes | — | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 14 | 20 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 20 | 12 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 7 | 1 |
| Other heart disease | 17 | 19 |
| Other circulatory disease | 4 | 12 |
| Influenza | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia | 5 | 3 |
| Bronchitis | 6 | — |
| Other diseases of respiratory system ... | 5 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | 2 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | — | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | — | — |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 3 | — |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | — |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 12 | 13 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 2 | 2 |
| All other accidents | 3 | 2 |
| Suicide | 1 | — |
| Other violent causes | — | — |
| All causes | 121 | 107 |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

| <i>Disease</i> | <i>Total cases notified</i> | <i>Cases admitted to hospital</i> | <i>Deaths</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Measles | 4 | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 13 | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| Food Poisoning | 4 | — | — |
| Meningococcal Infection | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | 6 | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | — | 8* |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 7 | — | — |
| Acute Inf. Encephalitis | — | — | — |
| Acute Polioencephalitis | — | — | — |
| Acute Paralytic | — | — | — |
| Poliomyelitis Non Paralytic | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | 1 | — | — |
| Paratyphoid Fevers | — | — | — |
| Totals | 36 | — | 8 |

* This figure includes certain types of Pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

| <i>Age.</i> | <i>Scarlet Fever</i> | <i>Diphtheria</i> | <i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i> | <i>Pneumonia</i> | <i>Meningococcal Infection</i> | <i>Measles</i> | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>Erysipelas</i> | <i>Acute Poliomyelitis</i> | <i>Food Poisoning</i> | <i>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</i> | <i>Dysentery</i> | <i>Paratyphoid Fevers</i> |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Under 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 and under 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2 " 3 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 3 " 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4 " 5 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 " 10 | 6 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 5 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 10 " 15 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 15 " 20 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20 " 35 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35 " 45 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 " 65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 65 and over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 13 | — | 1 | — | — | 4 | 7 | 6 | — | 4 | — | 1 | — |

TUBERCULOSIS.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | | Deaths. | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----|---------------|----|--------|-----------|----|---------------|----|--------|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Totals | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Totals |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | | M. | F. | M. | F. | |
| Under 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 and under 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 „ „ 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10 „ „ 15 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 „ „ 20 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20 „ „ 25 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 „ „ 35 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | *1 | — | — | — |
| 35 „ „ 45 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 „ „ 55 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55 „ „ 65 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |

In addition to the new cases notified within the District 2 pulmonary male and 2 pulmonary female cases transferred from other areas during the year.

*Died from another cause.

EAST WIGHT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Public water supplies over the whole area are provided by the Isle of Wight Water Board—an Authority which is responsible for supplies to the whole Island.

Hale Common Area, Arreton.

During the year progress was made towards the provision of a mains supply to this area.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Bembridge, Brading, Niton and Godshill. All public conveniences are small and are maintained by part-time attendants.

No additional conveniences were provided during the year and those in service continued to function without serious trouble. The usual incidents of abuse have arisen but, fortunately, these were the exception.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided in Apse Heath, Bembridge, Brading, Blackgang, Chillerton, Godshill, Niton and Whitwell.

Blackgang Sewerage.

The Blackgang scheme operated without trouble during its first season of peak demand. We can now feel satisfied that the long standing nuisance has been abated.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

Apse Heath—to small Purification Works.

Bembridge—The outfall at the Harbour has been taken out of use by the new scheme that came into operation during

1959. By this scheme, all the flow from the centre of the village, which normally discharged into the outfall at the Harbour mouth, has been diverted to a newly constructed pumping station at The Point. From there it is lifted to Swains Road where it discharges into the gravity sewer connected to the Ethel Point outfall. The Ethel Point outfall has been enlarged to take the additional flow. This new system has abated the serious nuisance that has existed in the Harbour mouth for a number of years.

There still remains the risk of discharge on to the foreshore from the Ethel Point outfall. The increased flow into the system naturally increases the risk. The period during which a discharge on to the foreshore is possible is only of about two hours duration in each tide cycle, and then a flow on to the beach only occurs when the wind is from the East. The Council has approved a scheme for the construction of a holder tank to operate during the period of risk and accepted tenders for the early commencement of the work. During the remaining ten hours of each tide cycle the flow is well off shore. The holder tank will, therefore, provide a permanent remedy to the problem.

Blackgang—A Pumping Station at the head of the Chine lifts sewage from the area to a sewage disposal plant some distance from the area. Effluent discharges into a land drain and thence over the cliff face.

Brading—to Sewage Works.

Chillerton—to settlement tanks and land irrigation system. This system, although functioning without trouble, cannot be considered as meeting modern standards.

Godshill—To disposal works.

Niton and Whitwell—To disposal works.

Small Sewage Disposal Plants are provided for a number of the Council's Housing Estates at :—

The Bower, Newchurch
 Langbridge, Newchurch
 West View, Chale
 Southview, Chale Green
 Hazely Combe, Arreton
 Pagham Place, Rookley
 St. George's View, Rookley
 Merstone

These small plants are desludged at intervals of 6—9 months and give rise to very little trouble.

Highwood Lane, Rookley :

A system of drainage serving a few cottages in Highwood Lane, Rookley, discharges into a settlement tank and thence by means of an effluent drain into a watercourse.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The refuse collection service continued to function in a satisfactory manner. The service covers the whole district. A weekly collection is given in Brading and Bembridge, and a fortnightly collection in all other parts of the district.

| | <i>No. of Vehicles.</i> | <i>Total Mileage.</i> | <i>Disposal of Refuse.</i> |
|------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| East Wight | One full-time in Bembridge and Brading One spends half time in East Wight, half time in West Wight | 13,765 | 1.—Tip at Yaverland 2.—Tip at Church Lane, Brading 3.—Tip at Bleakdown, Godshill |

LITTER BASKETS.

Requests for the provision of litter baskets are still on the increase and while there is a desire to meet the demand, emptying is a considerable problem. One would express appreciation of the co-operation of the County Council roadmen in this work. In addition, litter baskets are emptied at times by the R.D.C. refuse collecting staff; while in other cases local residents are paid a small sum annually to attend to baskets in their locality.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

East Wight.

The Council do not own a cesspool emptier but hire a machine when required from Ryde, Sandown or Ventnor. A routine service is not in operation but pits are emptied upon application:—

1. If they have not been emptied within the past twelve months.
2. If they are overflowing or are likely to overflow in the near future.

As we have to depend on hiring from neighbouring authorities there are times when we have not a machine available for urgent work. Delays are therefore unavoidable and although they are kept to a minimum, there have been occasions when pits have been awaiting attention for several weeks. The total demands on the R.D.C. are not sufficient to justify the purchase of an emptying machine.

HOSTELS.

East Wight.

Y.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell. Mains Water. Drainage to cesspool. Public refuse collection.

HOUSING.

East Wight.

21 new dwellings were erected by the Council during the year in East Wight.

Slum Clearance (East and West Wight).

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of unfit houses demolished | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Number of unfit houses closed | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Number of families rehoused from these unfit houses | | | | 10 |

Improvement Grants.

The Rural District Council continued their policy of making Improvement Grants, and during the year 29 properties were improved under this scheme.

Assisted House Purchase and Loans to carry out repairs (East and West Wight).

During 1960 loans were made in respect of the purchase, construction, repair, improvement or alteration of 78 properties. The total amount paid in this respect was £112,000.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Ten licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were issued, providing accommodation for approximately 750 caravans.

The main camping area in the East Wight is in Bembridge. One large site accommodating 250-300 caravans is provided with mains water, main drainage, ample public conveniences and showers, and has shop and cafeteria situated upon it. In addition, this site has a large public hall, cinema and camp office. Caravans are owned by various individuals and let weekly throughout the season. This is a well run camp with good service.

One other large camp accommodating about 250 caravans and a number of tents is provided with main sewer, public convenience blocks, and water from stand pipes.

In addition to caravans, there are well over 1,000 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations who set up tented camps in the Bembridge area. There is a good spirit of co-operation between camp organisers and the R.D.C. officials.

Under the new Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, the system of control of caravans was modified. In an endeavour to unify the standard of control, several conferences were held with all Island Authorities. By the end of the year it had not been possible to make sufficient progress in these conferences to enable licences to be issued for 1961.

CHALETS.

On account of the high cost of caravan maintenance, a number of operators are showing interest in the provision of 'chalets' in substitution for caravans. As there is no legal definition of a 'chalet' there is considerable difficulty in dealing with structures of this type. The term 'chalet' is being applied to the small "sleeping" chalet in a holiday camp, where all other living and entertainment facilities are provided on a communal basis, and the same term defines as chalets, 2, 3 or 4 room buildings that provide a complete habitable unit. One would express the view that these latter are small houses coming within the scope of the Building Byelaws, Housing and Public Health Acts, but there are many buildings in between the two extremes defined, about which there is considerable doubt.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

East Wight.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Houses inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 81 |
| Houses re-inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 146 |
| Cowstables and dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Food preparing premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 302 |
| Meat and other foods inspection | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 94 |
| Drains and sewers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 126 |
| Water supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Refuse collection | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 235 |
| Various | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 602 |
| New buildings and alterations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 571 |
| Total number of visits of inspection made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2181 |

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council :

East Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 36 | 52 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 31 | 41 | 2 | — |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 67 | 93 | 2 | — |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

| <i>Particulars</i> | | | | <i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i> | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|-----------------|
| | | | | <i>Found</i> | <i>Remedied</i> |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | ... | | | 1 | 1 |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| Unsuitable or Defective | ... | | | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | — | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| | | | | — | — |

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Imported Meat | ... | ... | ... | ... | 68 lb. |
| Canned Meat | ... | ... | ... | ... | 262 lb. |
| Tinned Fruit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75 lb. |
| Other Goods | ... | ... | ... | ... | |

WEST WIGHT.

WATER.

The rainfall for the year was 47.7 inches, and the average water consumption for the West Wight area was 472,000 gallons per day, compared with an average consumption for the previous year of 522,627 gallons per day.

73 samples of both treated and raw water supplies were examined, of which 82 per cent were classified as satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (2), Totland, Totland Bay, Colwell and Alum Bay (by arrangement with the Needles Hotel). All conveniences are well maintained by a full-time attendant.

New public conveniences (chemical disposal type) were completed at Compton Bay near Freshwater, in October, 1959. These are maintained by a part-time attendant.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Main sewerage systems are provided at Freshwater, Totland, Colwell Bay, Yarmouth and Shorwell Village.

Disposal of Sewage.

Freshwater : 18in. diameter sea outfall at Norton extending 700 feet out from shore.

„ (Brambles and Monks area)—Military sewer sea outfall at Linstone Chine.

Totland : 12in. diameter sewer sea outfall.

Yarmouth : Sea outfall discharging 500 feet from the shore near end of Yarmouth Pier.

„ 6in. diameter sea outfall taking the drainage of three or four dwellings at the top of the High Street.

Shorwell : To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.

Brook—The former “Estate sewer” has been taken over by the Council. Treatment is by settlement tank (anaerobic treatment).

Brighstone new sewerage scheme—Now approaching completion.

Calbourne new sewerage scheme—Now approaching completion.

Brambles and Monks area of Freshwater—The former “Military sewer” has been taken over by the Council. The sewer has been renewed near the outfall at Linstone Cline which has been affected by coast erosion. A scheme for the diversion of this sewer into the main Freshwater sewer discharging at the Norton sea outfall is under consideration.

Small Sewage Purification Plants.

There is a small sewage purification plant at Shalfleet taking the drainage of some twenty Council houses and private properties.

Small sewage purification plants are provided at Porchfield, Thorley and Newbridge housing estates, and there is a small sewage purification plant at Alum Bay dealing with the drainage of the Public Conveniences, the Needles Hotel and tea rooms.

Sewerage—Freshwater and Totland.

The “storm relief” sewer in Station Road, Freshwater, has remedied periodic flooding in the low lying area but the exceptionally heavy rainfall this year has created problems in other sections of the sewerage system. The Council has under consideration the enlargement of the main pumping station at Freshwater and the auxiliary pumping station at Colwell. Divers have inspected the main sewer sea outfalls at Totland and Norton. The condition of the Totland outfall is unsatisfactory having regard to the great increase in the “summer” population and the conversion of Fort Warden from a semi-derelict military establishment into a large chalet holiday camp.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

There is a weekly collection of refuse in the Parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth, and a fortnightly collection in all other parishes in the West Wight. Refuse

is deposited by controlled tipping on the land reclamation area on the east bank of the River Yar estuary at Yarmouth, the disused clay pit in Copse Lane, Freshwater, and at Churchill's Quarry, Shalfleet.

| | <i>No. of Vehicles</i> | <i>Refuse Collected, Cubic yds.</i> | <i>No. of Vehicle Loads</i> | <i>Total Mileage</i> | <i>Disposal of Refuse</i> |
|------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| West Wight | One 18 cub. yd. used for Freshwater Totland, and Yarmouth One 12 cub. yd. shared with East Wight | 23,400 approx. | 1,300 | 11,305 | Yarmouth Land Reclamation Area; disused clay pit, Copse Lane, Freshwater, and Churchill's Quarry, Shalfleet |

The number of new houses completed this year is a record and the considerable increase in the "holiday" population in Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth places a heavy strain on the service which is now barely sufficient for the winter months. Extra staff and equipment are necessary to provide a satisfactory service, including a twice weekly collection in in the summertime from the larger holiday camps, hotels and shops.

CESSPIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

Premises are served by a cesspit emptying lorry on hire from Ryde Borough and Ventnor U.D.C.

Total number of cesspits or septic tanks cleansed 156.

HOSTELS.

West Wight.

Weston Manor Hostel, Totland. Mains water supply. Main drainage. Weekly collection of refuse.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Solent Riviera Camping Site, Thorness: 56 caravans. W.C.s. and wash basins to sewage disposal plant. Mains water supply. Refuse destroyed by incineration and periodically collected by Council's vehicle.

West Wight Country Club, Totland: 36 caravans. 8 W.C.s, 2 showers and 5 wash basins, with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse.

Mountfield Caravan Park, Norton Green, Freshwater: 32 caravans. W.C.s, showers and wash basins with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse.

Grange Chine, Brighstone: 8 caravans. Mains water supply. Chemical closets. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

The Orchards, Newbridge: 18 caravans. Mains water supply. Septic tank drainage. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

Compton Farm, Brook: 12 caravans. Mains water supply. Toilet block with septic tank drainage. Fortnightly collection of refuse.

Pilgrims Park, Thorness Bay: 200 caravans. New caravan park opened May 1960. Mains water supply. Drainage to sewage disposal plant, anaerobic tank and aeration beds. Ample toilet facilities, W.C.s and showers. Refuse collected by Council's vehicle.

In addition to caravans, it is estimated that about 500 members of the Boys' Brigade and other Youth Organisations set up tented camps at Cliff End Fort, Freshwater, Totland Recreation Ground and at Norton.

HOUSING.

Four new dwellings were erected by the Council during the year in West Wight.

Private houses erected in **East** and **West** Wight—77.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

See East Wight Report.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AND HOUSE PURCHASE LOANS.

During the year 26 properties in the West Wight were improved under the Improvement Grant Scheme.

See East Wight Report for figures in connection with House Purchase loans.

WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

West Wight.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Houses inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 130 |
| Houses re-inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 320 |
| Cowstables and dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Food preparing premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Meat and other foods inspection | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| Drains and sewers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 480 |
| Water supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Refuse collection | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 300 |
| Various | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 360 |
| New buildings and alterations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 680 |
| Total number of visits of inspection made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2389 |

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION.

The character of public health inspection appears to be changing with the increased prosperity of the wage earning population, the wish of the younger married persons to have

a home of their own with modern sanitation, bathroom, hot water supply and, in general, to live in an environment which they have known when attending school, and the desirability of personal cleanliness, clean clothing and clean surroundings which is daily impressed upon them by press advertising and television.

There are fewer complaints of public health 'nuisanees' but an increase in requests for help or advice in improving home conditions, a demand for clean food, and more service from the Council.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council.

West Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 63 | 10 | 2 | - |
| ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 25 | 1 | - | - |
| iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 88 | 11 | 2 | - |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

| <i>Particulars</i> | <i>No of cases in which defects were found</i> | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| | <i>Found</i> | <i>Remedied</i> |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... | 1 | 1 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (S.7) | 1 | — |
| Total | 2 | 1 |

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Number of out-workers—25.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Tinned Meat | 104½ lb. |
| Canned Tomatoes | 28 lb. |
| Canned Carrots | 6 lb. |
| Other Goods | Nil |

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1960 | 184 |
| Number of samples found to be positive | — |
| Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated | 6 |

